

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD, NJ
NOTICE OF DATA PRIVACY INCIDENT

The Borough of Westwood, NJ (“Westwood”), a Municipality of Bergen County, is providing notice of a potential data privacy incident.

To date, we have no evidence of actual or attempted misuse of this information. This notice is intended to inform potentially affected individuals of the data privacy incident and to provide information and resources that they may use to better protect their personal information.

What Happened?

On or around December 22, 2018, Westwood became aware of unusual activity on the Westwood network. Westwood immediately launched an investigation into the activity, which included working with a leading third-party forensic investigation firm, to determine the nature of the activity. The investigation confirmed that malware was introduced on the network on December 22, 2018. Through the forensic investigation, Westwood learned that an unauthorized actor may have gained access to certain portions of the Westwood system. Based on the available evidence, the forensic investigation was unable to determine what, if any, information on the relevant Westwood systems may have been accessed. Therefore, in an abundance of caution, we are taking steps to provide notice of this incident.

What Information Was Involved?

While, to date, we have no evidence of any attempted or actual misuse of information, the data present in our systems may include: name, Social Security number, Driver’s license number or state identification number, or financial account or credit/debit card. We stress that to date, the investigation has not revealed evidence suggesting any information was viewed, accessed, or obtained by the unauthorized actor.

What We Are Doing?

We take this incident and the security of your personal information very seriously. Upon discovery of the unauthorized access, we began taking necessary measures to contain the incident and secure our network. We also worked with third-party forensics investigators to determine the full scope of the incident. We are providing notice of this incident and providing information individuals can use to better protect their personal information, if they feel is appropriate to do so. We also reported this incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the New Jersey State Police, and the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office.

For More Information

We established a dedicated line for individuals seeking additional information regarding this incident. Individuals may call (877) 830-7929 (toll free), Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with questions or if they would like additional information. Westwood can also be reached by mail at 101 Washington Avenue, Westwood, NJ 07675.

What Can I Do to Protect My Information?

Monitor Your Accounts. We encourage potentially affected individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity. Under U.S. law you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report.

Security Freeze. You have the right to place a “security freeze” on a credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in a credit report without your express authorization.

The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in the consumer's name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in a credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a security freeze on a credit report. Should you wish to place a security freeze, please contact the major consumer reporting agencies listed below:

Experian

P.O. Box 9554
Allen TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

TransUnion

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-888-909-8872
www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

Equifax

PO Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-800-685-1111
www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Fraud Alert. As an alternative to a security freeze, consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below:

Experian

P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

TransUnion

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19106
1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert

Equifax

P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-888-766-0008
www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Additional Information. You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect information, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.identitytheft.gov, 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement.